



Trust Headquarters
Nexus House
4 Gatwick Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 9BG

Internal Ref:
Email:

Tel: 0300 123 0999
www.secamb.nhs.uk

Dear ,

The Trust is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) request, thank you. This request has been assigned the internal reference quoted above; please ensure that you quote this number in any future correspondence.

We have now provided a formal response below. Please accept our sincere apologies for the delay and inconvenience you have experienced regarding the completion of this request. At the time of writing the Trust continues to receive high volumes of FOI requests, many of which are complex and time consuming. In this instance, the Trust has not responded within the required 20 working days, and for this we apologise.

FOI Request

You asked us:

Freedom of information request about any policy, procedure or internal guidance your service has regarding operating in extreme heat, specifically for your employees' wellbeing.

As per HSE, each service will have its own definition of what specific temperature is considered a hazard.

If your service has such a policy, please can you forward it to me directly?

If this cannot be facilitated, please could you send me the following details:

- (1) What temperature is considered by your service to be hazardous (specifically for hot weather)**
- (2) What controls and safety measures your service has in place to protect employees in hot weather**
- (3) Where vehicles do not have functional air conditioning in hazardous heat, what protective measures are made for the employees using that vehicle and what - if any - priority is given to the vehicle's repair.**



Where the policy differs by year, please could you send me the most recent policy. If you do not have a policy or procedure for hot weather working, please could you send me the most recent agreed local support and/or guidance for your employees working in hot weather?

Formal Response

The Trust confirms it holds part of the information you requested.

What temperature is considered by your service to be hazardous (specifically for hot weather)

Working in temperatures are covered under the Workplace (Health Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992, and there is no specified upper limit as it should be assessed on the activity being undertaken.

It is the responsibility of services to undertake risk assessments for activities where hazards are identified and to implement controls to reduce impact of those hazards. Where temperature is identified as a hazard, this should be included, and appropriate controls be put in place.

What controls and safety measures your service has in place to protect employees in hot weather

Based on the outcome of any risk assessment, managers are required to implement the controls identified within it. Examples of controls in risk assessments within the Trust include use of local portable fans where air conditioning is not fitted and ensuring drinking water is available.

Where vehicles do not have functional air conditioning in hazardous heat, what protective measures are made for the employees using that vehicle and what - if any - priority is given to the vehicle's repair.

Protective measures (controls) in relation to heat in vehicles can include ensuring availability of drinking water and limiting exposure to hotter areas of the vehicle by rotation where possible. The Trust also provides rest areas such as at our Ambulance Community Response Posts and Make Ready Centres with air conditioning to take breaks.

Where the policy differs by year, please could you send me the most recent policy. If you do not have a policy or procedure for hot weather working, please could you send me the most recent agreed local support and/or guidance for your employees working in hot weather?

There is no specific policy relating to working in hot weather. Guidance around hot weather is communicated as part of EPRR (emergency preparedness resilience response) daily briefing to the Trust's command structure. This is normally because of the UKHSA/Met Office's [Heat Health Alert Service](#) which is designed to forewarn of

periods of high temperatures. This service also provides action cards for health and social care providers for each level.

Next steps

We hope you find the information provided to be of some assistance.

Should you be dissatisfied with our response then in the first instance please contact Caroline Smart, Head of Information Governance, via the following email address: FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

You can ask us to review our original response. If you would like us to carry out an internal review, please let us know within 40 working days of you receiving our original response. This review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in reviewing the original response, ordinarily, the Trust Data Protection Officer. We will endeavour to complete this request within 20 working days.

Should you remain dissatisfied then you can contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) (ICO). Complaints to the ICO should be made within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints.

Alternatively, the ICO's postal address is:
Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust



Saving Lives,
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon